

DOE NEWS

For Immediate Release
August 11, 2006

DOE Granted Radioactive Materials Shipment Special Permit by U.S. Department of Transportation

(Grand Junction, CO)—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management in Grand Junction, Colorado, recently received authorization from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for a special permit associated with the shipments of low-level radioactive uranium mill tailings that will be transported from the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Site in Utah to the disposal site at Crescent Junction, Utah.

Last November, DOE began the application process for the special permit that allows alternative requirements for packaging, hazard communication, and container-specific radioactivity determinations. Approved types of packaging include railcars, intermodal containers, haul trucks, and pup trailers. Each container must be securely covered and durably marked as specified in the permit, including the designation of “For Radioactive Materials Use Only.” DOE plans to transport most of the materials by rail; oversize materials will be transported by truck. The transporter must carry a copy of the special permit and other specified shipping papers with each shipment. The special permit eliminates the need for DOE to characterize the contents of each railcar or truckload before shipment. Instead, the permit allows a calculated maximum radioactivity concentration per package.

“This has been a long and sometimes tedious process,” said Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director. “However, in the long run, having this special permit in place will save us extensive time and money. This DOT exemption removes several hurdles and keeps us progressing toward our ultimate task of moving the tailings.”

The initial special permit is granted for 2 years and must be renewed every 4 years thereafter. The special permit (number DOT-SP 14283) is available on the DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration website at http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp_app/special_permits/spec_perm_index.htm.

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